

Apply now for an exchange program for university undergraduate students interested in journalism and new media!

Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders are intensive short term academic programs whose purpose is to provide groups of undergraduate student leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States, while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills. The five-week Institutes will consist of a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures. The coursework and classroom activities will be complemented by educational travel, site visits, leadership activities, and volunteer opportunities within the local community. The Institutes will include an academic residency component of approximately four weeks and a domestic study tour of approximately one week. During the academic residency, participants will also have the opportunity to engage in educational and cultural activities outside of the classroom.

The Study of the U.S. Institute on Journalism and New Media will be hosted by the Foundation for Understanding Through Students (FIUTS) located on the University of Washington (UW), Seattle campus in Washington state, pending final grant approval. The Institute will provide participants with a deeper understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a free press in U.S. society.

FIUTS will partner with the Seattle Globalist, an online publication housed in UW's Department of Communication, to deliver an intensive, hands-on academic curriculum with four distinct tracks that are woven throughout the program: 1) leadership, diversity, and service; 2) U.S. media and introduction to journalism; 3) new media and media trends; and 3) journalism skills. Academic sessions will examine First Amendment rights, editorial independence, journalistic ethics, civic journalism, and social/digital media. The academic sessions and skills building workshops will be held in classrooms and computer labs on the UW Seattle campus. On-site media visits are planned to a radio studio, a community television station, National Public Radio, We the People Media, and the *Seattle Times*, among others. An end-of-program study tour to Chicago and Washington, D.C., and day trips to Bainbridge Island and Eatonville, WA further illuminate the American experience. Information on the program can be found at www.fiuts.org/susi.

The participants are expected to be highly motivated first through third year undergraduate students from colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education, who demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. Their fields of study will be varied, and may include the sciences, social sciences, humanities, education, business, and other professional fields. Emphasis should be made on recruiting participants from non-elite backgrounds, from both rural and urban areas, and with little or no prior experience in the United States or elsewhere outside their home country. In addition, recruitment of participants should include historically underserved groups such as indigenous groups, people with disabilities, and ethnic minorities.

Candidates nominated for this program will:

- be proficient in English;
- be interested in the topic of Journalism and New Media;
- be between 18 and 25 years of age;
- have at least one semester left of their undergraduate studies, and therefore be committed to return to their home universities following completion of the program;
- demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in their university and community activities;
- indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States;
- have a sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated by grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;
- demonstrate commitment to community and extracurricular university activities;
- have little or no prior study or travel experience in the United States or elsewhere outside of their home country;
- be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful, and inquisitive;
- be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and educational travel; and,
- be comfortable with campus life, prepared to share living accommodations, and able to make adjustments to cultural and social practices different from those of their home country.

The U.S. Department of State will cover all participant costs, including: program administration; domestic travel and ground transportation; book, cultural, mailing and incidental allowances; and housing and subsistence.

Please complete the attached application form and send to amcentersl@state.gov by December 10, 2015.